

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF  
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Release Date: December 1, 2010

### **HISTORICAL RECORDS ADVISORY BOARD ANNOUNCES REGRANT AWARDS TO ALABAMA LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND HISTORICAL REPOSITORIES**

Meeting on November 9, 2010, at the Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH), Alabama's Historical Records Advisory Board (HRAB) awarded \$53,221.93 in grant funds to 29 local government agencies or historical repositories for records preservation projects. Funding for the awards was again provided by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) under its State and National Archival Partnership (SNAP) Grant Program.

For this cycle, the HRAB received 46 grant applications from localities across Alabama, compared to only 30 last year. Despite the stiffer competition, 63% of the applicants received full or partial funding.

Here is a list of the successful applicants, with the amount of funds awarded and a brief description of their projects:

Aliceville Museum. \$2,500 to continue its project to inventory, rehouse, and catalog historical documents and artifacts pertaining to a World War II German prisoner-of-war camp located near Aliceville.

Anniston-Calhoun County Public Library. \$1,000 to inventory, rehouse, and catalog unprocessed archival collections from its Alabama Room. After processing, the records will be converted to MARC format and uploaded to the library's online catalog.

Birmingham Museum of Art. \$890 to assist in rebinding accession registers and cataloging the museum's backlog of archival materials.

Clarke County Historical Society. \$1,000 to digitize and provide archival storage for 1,000 historical photographs taken by staff of local newspapers. The photographs are held by the society's historical museum in Grove Hill.

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Daphne Public Library. \$1,000 to collect, store, scan, and preserve materials pertaining to Daphne's "local history and folkways." Collections acquired or processed under the project will be made available through Alabama Mosaic.

DeKalb County Genealogical Society. \$2,650 to rescue 8,000 historical circuit court files from improper storage, arrange and rehouse them in archival containers, and place them in environmentally controlled storage at the court's new records center.

Fairhope (Marietta Johnson) Museum. \$3,000 to finish processing the archival collections of Marietta Johnson, an internationally known educator from Baldwin County. The museum will inventory, rehouse, catalog, and create finding aids for these materials.

Gadsden Public Library. \$1,000 to digitize oral history interviews of Gadsden and Etowah County citizens conducted in the 1970s. After reformatting, the interviews will be placed in a new Voice Library accessible on the library's website.

Guntersville Public Library. \$3,000 to digitize all previously microfilmed newspapers published in Guntersville between 1872 and 1957. The digital version will be searchable by keyword. The project will include newspaper issues held by the ADAH.

City of Hobson City. \$3,000 to transfer endangered records to climate-controlled storage at the new city hall and to hire a consultant to assist with rehousing, cataloging, and scanning the historical records of Alabama's oldest African-American municipality.

City of Irondale. \$500 to assist in purchasing a new shredder to improve the city's records disposition program. As part of its project, Irondale will identify and destroy outdated temporary records.

City of Leeds. \$2,300 to continue a project to inventory and rehouse records at its newly renovated records center. Volunteers will also create a database of record information that will be integrated into the public library's online catalog.

Town of Loachapoka. \$843.45 to inventory, reorganize, and improve storage for its records. The town will hire two Auburn University graduate students to conduct the inventory, purchase new records storage boxes and shelving, and scan its current records.

Madison County Probate Office. \$700 to purchase a recording hygrothermograph to monitor environmental conditions at the Madison County Records Center, located in the Huntsville Public Library.

Marengo County History and Archives Museum. \$2,936.45 to inventory and catalog manuscripts, photographs, maps, and artifacts dating back to 1832. Grant funds will purchase document cases, photographic supplies, shelving, and cataloging software.

Mildred Harrison Regional Library. \$3,000 to “conduct a records inventory of the 13 public libraries in Shelby County.” The MHRL will institute records management programs at its libraries and catalog their local historical collections.

City of Montgomery. \$1,000 to assist in compiling a comprehensive inventory of historical records scattered in various area repositories. The city will employ student help and purchase archival containers and shelving for a new, central records storage area.

City of Moody. \$875 for rehousing and scanning historical city records. The city will employ a scanning vendor and continue a records disposition project begun several years ago.

Morgan County Archives. \$1,000 to assist in purchasing a portable digital camera to photograph early Morgan County Commission minutes and historical newspapers. The project will provide digital access to records not currently available.

Ragland Historical Society. \$700 to assist in preparing two new storage areas at the society’s depot historical museum. The RHS intends to purchase air-conditioners, environmental monitors, and archival containers for its records and artifacts.

City of Red Bay. \$2,848 to purchase archival storage cabinets for 130 municipal maps and drawings that date back to 1907. The city will also obtain a hygrothermograph to monitor environmental conditions in its storage area.

Shelby County Historical Society. \$1,000 toward employing a vendor to digitize 101 oral history interviews with Shelby County residents conducted between 1974 and 1982. Society volunteers will also transcribe the digital versions into MS Word.

South Central Alabama Development Commission. \$3,000 to purchase microfilm of historical Lowndes County records, and a microfilm reader-printer, to be placed at the Hayneville Public Library.

Sylacauga Public Library. \$3,000 to hire additional staff for collecting, cataloging, and preserving historical documents and photographs from several local industries that have recently shut down. The grant will also fund archival processing supplies.

City of Talladega. \$2,979 to scan, index, and preserve the city's four earliest surviving minute books. The grant will fund scanning equipment and software. City staff will also make transcriptions of the indexed minute books available online.

Tuscaloosa Genealogical Society. \$1,000 toward purchasing digital cameras and archival supplies for continuing its project to preserve, index, catalog, and place online historical circuit court volumes from the county courthouse.

Tuskegee Human and Civil Rights Multicultural Center. \$3,000 to rehouse and improve storage for documents, photographs, audiovisual materials, and artifacts pertaining to "the history of Macon County and the East Alabama Black Belt," ca. 1900-1970.

University of West Alabama (Tutwiler Library). \$2,000 to preserve, scan, and place online historical records from ten Sumter County churches. This is the first stage in a long-term project to collect church records from west Alabama's Black Belt.

City of Valley. \$1,500 to inventory, catalog, and organize records, photographs, and artifacts at Valley's new "Museum of the Cannery." The museum's collections document the local textile industry and Valley's development from four mill villages.

For more information on the Alabama Historical Records Advisory Board's grant program, contact Tracey Berezansky, HRAB Deputy Coordinator, or Tom Turley, ADAH Local Government Records Archivist, at (334) 242-4452 or [records@archives.alabama.gov](mailto:records@archives.alabama.gov). Grant-related information is also available on the HRAB's web page: <http://www.archives.alabama.gov/hrb/hrbmainpage.pdf>.